



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

March 24, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO A TSUNAMI

On January 4, 2005, on a motion by Supervisor Knabe, your Board directed the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to update and finalize the Interim Operational Area (OA) Tsunami Emergency Response Plan and report back in 90 days. Additionally, your Board directed the CAO/Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to contact the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to request that the State work collaboratively with the County of Los Angeles in obtaining the most current tsunami inundation maps to support our planning efforts. Your Board further requested that the final Tsunami Emergency Response Plan be added as an annex to the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA TSUNAMI PLAN UPDATE

- The Tsunami Plan has been completed and will be added as an annex to the Operational Area Emergency Response Plan (OAERP) once it has final approval from the Emergency Management Council (EMC). Contact information for designated cities' representatives and government facilities which could be impacted by a tsunami has been included in the Plan. The Tsunami Plan is now being reviewed by the Emergency Management Council (EMC) sub-committee and will be presented to the EMC for final approval at their August 2005 meeting.

- The Chief Administrative Office/Office of Emergency Management (OEM) leads a Tsunami Task Force made up of representatives from the potentially affected coastal cities and County departments to facilitate coordination and planning efforts between all of the entities. To ensure a coordinated planning effort, a tsunami plan template has been provided to each of the coastal cities and OEM has conducted a series of Tsunami Planning Workshops to assist them in updating their own respective tsunami plans.
- OEM has submitted to OES a roster of County, cities, and other local agencies that will receive the tsunami watch and warning messages directly from the National Weather Service (NWS) and OES. The information received from NWS and OES will be used to communicate with the general public through the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

COORDINATION WITH OES

- OEM both met with and corresponded with OES regarding the importance of their effort to complete tsunami hazard mapping for the OA. OES responded and estimates the mapping to be completed by December 2005 (response attached). The maps will be used to finalize evacuation routes and refuge areas not yet covered by the current OA tsunami hazard maps.

TSUNAMI PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- OEM, through our Emergency Survival Program (ESP), has developed tsunami preparedness materials that are now available on our website and in hand-out form. The ESP Coordinating Council will approve the final draft of the revised tsunami awareness handout by March 25th. The OA is working with the County Office of Education, local coastal public school districts, and the California Seismic Safety Commission to develop tsunami preparedness educational materials for distribution to grades K-12.

I will send you a copy of the Tsunami Response Plan once the EMC has approved it.

DEJ:CP
JST:jl

Attachments

c: Board Executive Office
Emergency Management Council
County Counsel



David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Office of Emergency Management
1275 North Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90063
(323) 980-2260



Constance Perett
Administrator

March 8, 2005

James D. Goltz
Earthquake and Tsunami Program
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
1200 East California Blvd., MC 252-21
Pasadena, CA 91124

Dear Mr. Goltz:

TSUNAMI HAZARD MAPS AND NEW TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM

This is to confirm tsunami planning information that Jeff Terry, a member of my staff, received from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES). It is our understanding that a new mapping effort is underway to complete the Tsunami Hazard map for the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and also San Pedro. The new map will address omissions from the 2000 Tsunami Hazard Map which only provided coverage of the county's Tsunami Hazard areas from Malibu to the tip of the Palos Verdes peninsula. We have been informed that the map is scheduled to be ready for use by the end of 2005.

In addition, we understand that OES, in conjunction with the California Geological Survey (CGS), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Caltech, and the University of California at Berkeley, has developed an additional Tsunami Alert and Warning system called the California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN). CISN will provide tsunami warnings to the Operational Area and coastal cities by the end of the calendar year.

Both of these items are important to our tsunami planning efforts, and we want to ensure that our information is current. Please confirm that our understanding of these two projects is correct, and keep us informed of their progress.

Thank you for your participation in our Operational Area Tsunami Taskforce and for the support OES is providing. We look forward to our continued cooperative efforts in the area of Tsunami Hazard planning.

Sincerely,

CONSTANCE PERETT, CEM
Administrator

DEJ:CP
DG:JT:cm

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Earthquake and Tsunami Program
Caltech Seismological Laboratory, Mail Code 252-21
Pasadena, California 91125
Telephone (626) 356-3810; FAX (626) 844-0203

March 18, 2005

Constance Perett, CEM
Administrator
Office of Emergency Management
County of Los Angeles
1275 North Eastern Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90063

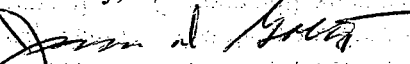
Dear Ms. Perett:

In response to your letter dated March 8, 2005, I must add a couple of caveats to an otherwise accurate depiction of OES plans for tsunami mapping and use of the CISN Display as conveyed to you by Mr. Jeff Terry.

In regard to the mapping program, our intention is to continue the development of tsunami hazard maps through a contractual arrangement with the University of Southern California. Our priority is to complete coastal mapping of the tsunami hazard in northern California between now and this fall. Then, pending continued funding, to complete maps in those areas that form gaps in southern California coastal coverage including the Long Beach and San Pedro harbor areas. Our expectation is that the maps for northern California will be completed by this fall and, at that time, the USC group will begin work on "gap" areas of southern California. It must be recognized that the USC researchers who are contracted to complete the mapping are also scientists who are now in the field investigating the impacts of the December tsunami disaster in southern Asia. We hope that these field investigations will not cause undue delay in completing work that they are contractually obligated to perform but we can't guarantee that the harbor areas will be mapped by the end of the year, but that is our goal.

In regard to the CISN Display, we would characterize this technology as an earthquake and tsunami notification system. In the most basic sense, the CISN Display replaces the older and more limited CUBE system as a means of broadcasting rapid information on a significant earthquake. The CISN Display is more versatile than the older system in that it provides information on earthquakes worldwide and also conveys information unavailable through CUBE such as ShakeMaps, commentary from seismologists, strong motion information from instrumented buildings, and most relevant in terms of your letter, tsunami warnings issued by the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. The benefit of this new notification system for emergency managers is that one can receive both the tsunami warning information and information about the earthquake that generated it in one application.

Sincerely,



James D. Goltz
Earthquake and Tsunami Program



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held January 4, 2005, the Board took the following action:

85-A

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

"On October 6, 1998, I requested the Chief Administrative Officer through the Office of Emergency Management to develop and issue a Tsunami Emergency Response Plan. As a result, an interim plan was developed in December 1998.

"It is my understanding that in order to finalize the Plan, the current Tsunami Emergency Response Plan should be revisited and updated with the most current scientific information on tsunamis and with other changes in the County's emergency response systems."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Chief Administrative Officer was instructed to do the following through his Office of Emergency Management:

- a. Coordinate with all impacted County departments and public entities to update the County's current Tsunami Emergency Response Plan and report back within 90 days;
- b. Send a letter to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the State work collaboratively with the County of Los Angeles in obtaining the most current tsunami inundation maps to support County planning efforts, and report back to the Board within 90 days on the status of obtaining the maps; and

(Continued on Page 2)

85-A (Continued)

- c. Include the final Tsunami Emergency Response Plan as an annex to the Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Response Plan and update the plan on the same schedule as the Emergency Response Plan or more frequently as needed.**

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

County Counsel

Administrator, Office of Emergency

Management, Chief Administrative Office